

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A welder cable coupler on a welder housing or wire feeder for conveniently connecting a welder cable to said welding housing or wire feeder, said welder coupler having a coupling jacket which includes an electrical coupling cavity having a plurality of electrical connectors positioned therein and a coupling sleeve rotatably positioned at least partially about said coupling jacket, said coupling jacket sized and shaped to be at least partially telescopically received in a cable connection sleeve of said welder cable, said plurality of electrical connectors in said coupling cavity designed to be electrically connected to corresponding electrical connectors in said cable connection sleeve at least when said coupling jacket is partially telescopically received in said cable connection sleeve, said coupling sleeve including a gripping member and a joining cavity having at least one thread, said joining cavity designed to at least partially engage an outer threaded surface of said cable connection sleeve after a majority of said electrical coupling cavity is at least partially telescopically inserted in said cable connection sleeve, said gripping member designed to facilitate in the rotation of said coupling sleeve on said coupling jacket, said gripping member on said coupling sleeve including a plurality of nodes substantially symmetrically oriented on said coupling sleeve to form a generally star-shape configuration.

2. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 1, wherein said coupling jacket includes an orientation guide designed to at least partially guide said coupling jacket in a certain orientation into said cable coupling sleeve.

Claims 3-6 (Canceled).

7. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one thread in said joining cavity of said coupling sleeve is spaced from a receiving end of said joining cavity.

8. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 2, wherein said at least one thread in said joining cavity of said coupling sleeve is spaced from a receiving end of said joining cavity.

9. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 7, wherein said receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve.

10. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 8, wherein said receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve.

11. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 7, wherein at least a majority of said electrical coupling cavity extends outwardly from said receiving end of said joining cavity.

12. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 9, wherein at least a majority of said electrical coupling cavity extends outwardly from said receiving end of said joining cavity.

13. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 10, wherein at least a majority of said electrical coupling cavity extends outwardly from said receiving end of said joining cavity.

14. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 1, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to a mounting plate that is designed to be secured to said welder housing or wire feeder, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

15. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 13, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to a mounting plate that is designed to be secured to said welder housing or wire feeder, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

16. (Currently Amended) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 14, wherein said coupling sleeve is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket.

17. (Currently Amended) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 15, wherein said coupling sleeve is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket.

18. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 14, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket when said coupling jacket is at least partially positioned in said plate cavity, said anti-rotation member inhibiting movement of said coupling jacket in said plate cavity.

19. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 16, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket when said coupling jacket is at least partially positioned in said plate cavity, said anti-rotation member inhibiting movement of said coupling jacket in said plate cavity.

20. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 17, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket when said coupling jacket is at least partially positioned in said plate cavity, said anti-rotation member inhibiting movement of said coupling jacket in said plate cavity.

21. (Currently Amended) A welder cable coupler on a welder housing or wire feeder for conveniently connecting a welder cable to said welding housing or wire feeder comprising a coupler having coupling jacket which includes an electrical coupling cavity having a plurality of electrical connectors positioned therein and a coupling sleeve rotatably positioned at least partially about said coupling jacket, said coupling jacket designed to be at least partially telescopically received in a cable connection sleeve of said welder cable, said electrical connectors in said coupling cavity designed to be electrically connected to corresponding electrical connectors in said cable connection sleeve at least when said coupling jacket is partially telescopically received in said cable connection

10 sleeve, said coupling sleeve including a joining cavity having a connection member designed to at least partially engage an outer surface of said cable connection sleeve after a majority of said electrical coupling cavity is ~~at least partially~~ telescopically inserted in said cable connection sleeve and said electrical connector in said coupling cavity is at least partially electrically connected to the corresponding electrical connector in said cable connection sleeve.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said connection member includes at least one thread.

24. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said connection member includes at least one thread.

25. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said coupling sleeve is oriented on said coupling jacket to enable at least a majority of said electrical coupling cavity to be telescopically inserted in said cable connection sleeve prior to said connection member at least partially engaging said outer surface of said cable connection sleeve.

26. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 24, wherein said coupling sleeve is oriented on said coupling jacket to enable at least a majority of said electrical coupling cavity to be telescopically inserted in said cable connection sleeve prior to said connection member at least partially engaging said outer surface of said cable connection sleeve.

27. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said coupling jacket includes an orientation guide designed to at least partially guide said coupling jacket in a certain orientation into said cable coupling sleeve.

28. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 26, wherein said coupling jacket includes an orientation guide designed to at least partially guide said coupling jacket in a certain orientation into said cable coupling sleeve.

29. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a gripping member to facilitate in the rotation of said coupling sleeve on said coupling jacket.

30. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 28, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a gripping member to facilitate in the rotation of said coupling sleeve on said coupling jacket.

31. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 29, wherein said gripping member on said coupling sleeve includes a plurality of nodes substantially symmetrically oriented on said coupling sleeve to form a generally star-shape configuration.

32. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said connection member is spaced from a receiving end of said joining cavity.

33. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 30, wherein said connection member is spaced from a receiving end of said joining cavity.

34. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 32, wherein said receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve.

35. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 33, wherein said receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve.

36. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 32, wherein at least a majority of said coupling cavity extends outwardly from said receiving end of said joining cavity.

37. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 35, wherein at least a majority of said coupling cavity extends outwardly from said receiving end of said joining cavity.

38. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 21, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to a mounting plate that is designed to be secured to said welder housing or wire feeder, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

39. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 37, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to a mounting plate that is designed to be secured to said welder housing or wire feeder, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

40. (Currently Amended) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 38, wherein said coupling sleeve is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket.

41. (Currently Amended) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 39, wherein said coupling sleeve is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket.

42. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 38, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket when said coupling jacket is at least partially positioned in said plate cavity, said anti-rotation member inhibiting movement of said coupling jacket in said plate cavity.

43. (Previously Submitted) The welder cable coupler as defined in claim 41, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket when said coupling jacket is at least partially positioned in said plate cavity, said anti-rotation member

inhibiting movement of said coupling jacket in said plate cavity.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of conveniently connecting a welder cable to a welding housing or wire feeder comprising:

5 a. providing a welder cable having a cable connection sleeve and a plurality of connectors at least partially positioned therein, said cable connection sleeve including a connection member;

b. providing a welder or wire feeder having a mounting plate secured thereto;

c. providing a coupler secured in a plate cavity of said mounting plate, said coupler having a coupling jacket that includes a plurality of connectors at least partially positioned therein and a coupling sleeve rotatably positioned at least partially about said coupling jacket, said coupling
10 sleeve including a joining cavity having a connection member, said at least one connector of said cable connection sleeve and said at least one connector of said coupling jacket are electrical connectors;

d. inserting said cable connection sleeve about said coupling jacket until a plurality of said connectors of said cable connection sleeve are at least partially connected to a plurality of said
15 connectors of said coupling jacket;

e. moving said coupling sleeve axially along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a portion of said connection member until said joining cavity in said coupling sleeve at least partially telescopically receives said cable connection sleeve and said connection member of said cable connection sleeve, and said joining cavity are at least partially engaged; and,

20 f. rotating said coupling sleeve at least one full turn until said connection member of said cable connection sleeve and said joining cavity are at least partially secured together.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

46. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said cable connection sleeve and said coupling jacket include a plurality of electrical connectors.

47. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein at least a majority of said cable connection sleeve is inserted about said coupling jacket prior to said moving of said coupling sleeve to cause said joining cavity to at least partially telescopically receive said cable connection sleeve.

48. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 46, wherein at least a majority of said cable connection sleeve is inserted about said coupling jacket prior to said moving of said coupling sleeve to cause said joining cavity to at least partially telescopically receive said cable connection sleeve.

49. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein a receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve, said connection member of said joining cavity positioned rearwardly of said beveled surface.

50. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 48, wherein a receiving end of said joining cavity has a beveled surface designed to receive a front end of said cable connection sleeve, said connection member of said joining cavity positioned rearwardly of said beveled surface.

51. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said connection member of said cable connection sleeve and said joining cavity includes at least one thread.

52. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 50, wherein said connection member of said cable connection sleeve and said joining cavity includes at least one thread.

53. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said coupling jacket includes an orientation guide to guide said coupling jacket a certain orientation relative to said cable coupling sleeve as said cable connection sleeve is at least partially inserted about said coupling jacket.

54. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 52, wherein said coupling jacket includes an orientation guide to guide said coupling jacket a certain orientation relative to said cable coupling sleeve as said cable connection sleeve is at least partially inserted about said coupling jacket.

55. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a gripping member to facilitate in the rotation of said coupling sleeve on said coupling jacket.

56. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 54, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a gripping member to facilitate in the rotation of said coupling sleeve on said coupling jacket.

57. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 55, wherein said gripping member on said coupling sleeve includes a plurality of nodes substantially symmetrically oriented on said coupling sleeve to form a generally star-shape configuration.

58. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to said mounting plate, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

59. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 56, wherein said coupling jacket is substantially rigidly secured to said mounting plate, said mounting plate including a plate cavity designed to at least partially telescopically receive a rear portion of said coupling jacket.

60. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a plurality of threads in said joining cavity and is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket between said retention member and mounting plate.

61. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 59, wherein said coupling sleeve includes a plurality of threads in said joining cavity and is movable along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket a length of at least a thread width of said joining cavity, said coupling jacket including a retention member to limit movement of said coupling sleeve along a longitudinal axis of said coupling jacket between said retention member and mounting plate.

62. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 44, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket to inhibit movement of said coupling jacket relative to said mounting plate.

63. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 61, wherein said mounting plate includes an anti-rotation member that engages said coupling jacket to inhibit movement of said coupling jacket relative to said mounting plate.

64. (Previously Submitted) The method as defined in claim 63, wherein said gripping member on said coupling sleeve includes a plurality of nodes substantially symmetrically oriented on said coupling sleeve to form a generally star-shape configuration.